

# CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for detecting a monitor, the method comprising:  
monitoring a first node of a connector, the connector for coupling to a flat panel  
display;  
asserting a first output signal to indicate the first node is in a first state; and  
receiving the first output signal at a flat panel display controller.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first output signal is an interrupt signal.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the interrupt signal is a system interrupt for a general  
purpose computer.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first output signal is stored in a register.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
determining if the first input is in a stable state before the step of asserting
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining includes the first input being  
stable when the input is stable for a predetermined amount of time.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined amount of time is based upon an  
internal timer.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined amount of time is based upon a  
register value.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the register value is indicative of a clock count.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
operating in a normal mode of operation prior to the step of monitoring, wherein  
the first input is in a second state.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the first state is indicative of a flat panel display  
being coupled to the connector.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the first state is indicative of a flat panel display  
being decoupled from the connector.

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13. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
driving a flat panel from the flat panel system controller.

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14. An apparatus for providing a display image, the apparatus comprising  
a connector having a pin to receive a signal from a flat panel display when the flat  
panel display is hot plugged;  
a signal detect portion having an input coupled to the connector pin to detect  
when a signal is received on the connector and having an output to provide  
an enable signal; and  
a flat panel display driver having an output to provide a display image to the  
connector and an input coupled to the output of the signal detect portion.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the connector is part of a graphics adapter.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus further includes a display controller  
to drive a cathode ray tube (CRT) monitor.

17. A system for providing a display image to a flat panel monitor, the system comprising:

a processing module; and

memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory stores

5 operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

monitor a first node of a connector, the connector for coupling to a  
flat panel display;

assert a first output signal to indicate the first node is in a first  
state; and

10 receive the first output signal at a flat panel display controller.

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18. A method for enabling hardware drivers for a flat panel display device, the method comprising:

detecting a flat panel display device being disconnected, and in response:

negating an enable signal to the hardware drivers for the flat panel display

5 device; and

generating a system interrupt.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein disconnecting of the flat panel display includes powering down of the display.

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20. The method of claim 18, wherein disconnecting of the flat panel display includes physically disconnecting the display.

21. The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

15 detecting a flat panel display device being connected, and in response generating a system interrupt.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

20 in response to the system interrupt, system software asserts the enable signal to the hardware drivers for the flat panel display device.